



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## GENERAL NOTES.

---

The Committee on Publication has decided to conduct a new department in the *Publications* under the title given above. Many notes of a general character have appeared in the Notices from the Lick Observatory, but hereafter notices in that department will be confined to accounts or results of investigations being carried on in that institution. Members and friends of the Society are invited to aid the committee in carrying out the work of this new department. Communications of general interest will be gladly received and may be sent to SIDNEY D. TOWNLEY, 2023 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California.

---

Students in astronomy in the Summer School of the University of California are now (August) carrying on a telegraphic longitude campaign between the Student's Observatory, Berkeley, and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Observatory, Presidio, San Francisco. Thus far cloudy weather has badly interfered with the work. It is probable that in the future the Summer (?) School in astronomy will be held during the Christmas holidays, as the weather then is usually good.

Bulletin No. 10 of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago gives some measures of the fifth satellite of *Jupiter*, made by Professor BARNARD with the 40-inch telescope. A combination of these measures with those made in 1892, at the time of discovery, gives for the period of revolution  $11^h 57^m 22^s.647$ . Professor HALE thinks this cannot be in error more than 0.01.

Secretary LONG, of the Navy Department, recently appointed a Board of Visitors to examine and report upon the U. S. Naval Observatory, to consist of Senator WM. E. CHANDLER; Representative ALSTON G. DAYTON; Professor GEORGE C. COMSTOCK, Director of the Washburn Observatory; Professor GEORGE E. HALE, Director of the Yerkes Observatory; and Professor EDWARD C. PICKERING, Director of the Harvard College Observatory. This board met at the Naval Observatory on June 30th. Its report will be received with the greatest interest by astronomers all over the country.

Professor F. L. O. WADSWORTH has been appointed by the managers of the Western Pennsylvania University Director of the Allegheny Observatory, succeeding in the position Professors KEELER and LANGLEY. Professor WADSWORTH has been connected with the Yerkes Observatory since its opening, and was

previously at the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution.

The following notice, concerning the Third Conference of Astronomers and Astrophysicists, has recently been issued. These conferences have proved of immense benefit to those who are able to attend. It is to be regretted that California is so far away that it is in general impossible for the Pacific Coast members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to attend. It is to be hoped that some time a meeting of the Conference may be held at the Lick Observatory:—

THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF ASTRONOMERS AND ASTROPHYSICISTS.

The committee charged with the selection of a time and place for holding a third conference of astronomers and astrophysicists met in the city of Washington on February 8, 1899, and by unanimous vote of the members present, Messrs. NEWCOMB, MORLEY, HALE, and COMSTOCK, resolved that such a conference should be held at the Yerkes Observatory early in the following September, the precise date to be subsequently determined by Professor HALE.

In accordance with this resolution, and at Professor HALE's invitation, the conference will be held at the Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., beginning on Wednesday, September 6th, and closing on Friday, September 8th.

In its plan and scope this conference will be similar to those held in 1897 and 1898 at Williams Bay and Cambridge, accounts of which have been published in this journal and elsewhere. The committee charged with perfecting a plan for the organization of a permanent society of astronomers and astrophysicists to have charge of future conferences, will report at this time.

A circular, giving information regarding local arrangements, will be issued shortly.

GEO. C. COMSTOCK, *Secretary*.

(*Astrophysical Journal*, July 1, 1899.)

Dr. T. J. J. SEE, formerly of the Lowell Observatory, and Professor MILTON UPDEGRAFF, Professor of Astronomy in the University of the State of Missouri, have recently been appointed by President MCKINLEY Professors of Mathematics in the United States Navy.

Mr. FREDERICK H. SEARES, who was for some time a member of the Publication Committee of this journal, has gone abroad to pursue the studies of astronomy and mathematics for two years in Germany and France.

The University of Michigan, at its last commencement, conferred the degree of Master of Science upon Professor W. W. CAMPBELL, of the Lick Observatory.

In view of the bequest of \$50,000 for the department of astronomy at Smith College, by the will of ELIZA HAVEN, won after long litigation, it has been decided that the department shall be known as the "Elizabeth Haven School of Astronomy." — *Science*, June 30, 1899.

FRANK SCHLESINGER, Ph. D. (Columbia), has been appointed an observer in the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and will be stationed at Ukiah, California, where he will take part in the international plan for the determination of the variation of latitude. — *Science*, July 7. [We hope to give an account of this plan in the next number of the *Publications*.]

In the June number of the *Astrophysical Journal*, Mr. F. R. MOULTON, of the University of Chicago, derives formulæ for the computation of a parabolic orbit from two observations of apparent position and one of the motion in the line of sight. So far as known, no computations of this nature have yet been made.

In the same number of the *Journal*, as above, Dr. ELKIN has an article, "Results of the Photographic Observations of the *Leonids*, November 14-15, 1898, at the Yale Observatory." Cameras were located at two stations, Yale Observatory and Hamden. Seven meteor trails were discussed, and an orbit derived assuming a period of 33.25 years. Only one meteor recorded itself upon the plates at both stations. Its height was found to be at appearance 59.97 miles; at disappearance, 53.14 miles.

A new variable star, B. D.  $\gamma$  45°, 3062, of the *Algol* type, was discovered some time ago at Moskow. Harvard College Observatory Circular No. 44 contains the results of an examination of all the Draper Memorial plates taken in that portion of the sky occupied by this star. The star appears on 195 plates. On 170 of these it is of full brightness, while on the other 25 it is below normal brightness. A discussion of these measures gives a period for the variable of  $4^d 13^h 45^m 2^s$ . It is noticeable that the variation in brightness of this star is over three magnitudes, which exceeds the variation of any other variable of the *Algol* type. The circular contains also a table of minima of this star for the balance of the year.

*Nature*, for June 29th, has an article by W. F. DENNING, on the Red Spot on *Jupiter*. He says: "This feature has shown a remarkable variation of motion during the last twelve months. In

the winter there was a very decided acceleration of speed, but during the past three months the motion has been again retarded. The acceleration was first noticed here on the evening of February 3d, when the marking came to the central meridian seven or eight minutes before the computed time. In the first half of 1898, and again during the last few months, the rotation period of the spot was nearly  $9^h 55^m 42^s$ , but for several months in the past winter the rate corresponded very nearly with  $9^h 55^m 40^s.6$ . . . . Since the spot became a very prominent feature, in 1878, it has exhibited an increasing rate of rotation, the period rising from  $9^h 55^m 37^s$  to  $9^h 55^m 42^s$ .'' We imagine the author meant *decreasing* rate instead of *increasing*.

A second edition of Professor CAMPBELL's book, "The Elements of Practical Astronomy," appeared some time ago from the press of The Macmillan Company. The first thing to attract the attention of a person familiar with the first edition is a decided improvement in the mechanical execution of the work. The book has been revised and enlarged. Most of the mistakes which found their way into the first edition have been corrected, and few, if any, new ones introduced. The chief additions are a chapter on the meridian-circle and a number of illustrations of instruments. A critical review of the book, by G. C. C., a well-known American astronomer, appeared in *Science* for June 16th. The criticisms and suggestions there made are well worth the serious attention of every instructor of practical astronomy. However, as G. C. C. says, the work as a whole may be cordially commended.

During the year 1898-99 the total enrollment in the courses in astronomy in the University of California was ninety-five. The total number of students enrolled was sixty-four, of whom nine were graduate students. Enrollment includes only those who completed courses.